Dear Sir

Boston May 6. 1775

You have my Thanks for your kind Favor by Capt Kilpatrick, & the Tracks of the Brig^t which you sent me by him — I assure you it pleas'd me much — By the Accuracy of your Observations, one would hardly suppose the Accomodations on board had been bad; For an easy, comfortable Situation of the Body contributes much to the Brightness of the Mind — It gives me much Concern that you have been obliged to apply so constantly to Busines, especially to that irksome & tedious Branch of it, Writing. It is not only disagreeable to be kept steadily at that Employment, but is frequently prejudicial to the Health: I am happy to hear that, as yet, yours has escaped unimpaired either by your Business or Change of Climate —

From your last Letter to the Company it appears to be uncertain whether this will find you at Demerary: God forbid that you should have left it to come to this unhappy Country. In it's present Situation it must be inferior to any Country on Earth: You will doubtless receive from other of your Friends Accounts of what has been doing here; Notwithstanding, I will venture fatiguing you with a Repetition, rather than risque any Chance of your being uninformed.

Affairs were in a pretty peaceful Situation till Tuesday the 18th April, when the Grenadier & L^t Infantry Companies of the several Regiments here embark'd at 10 or 11 Clock at Night & were landed at Phipps's Farm at Cambridge, from whence they proceeded for Concord under the Command of L^t Col. Smith of the 10th — Their Destination was to seize a large Magazine of Provisions, Ammunition & w^h General Gage had been informed was there — This Information however proved to be false, for the Quantity was trifling. Between 8 & 9 Clock of the 19th (in the Morning) a Brigade, consisting of 4 — 23^d & 47th Reg^ts & the Marines, under Command of Brigadier General L^d Percy, marched out to support the first Party if they should be attacked; for Col. Smith's Orders were by all Means to avoid firing, unless he sh^d be attacked. About 8 Clock it was confidently reported

an Engagement had happened between Col. Smith's Party & the Country People; but this was for a long Time disbelieved by the General & Officers, for they did not appear to have any Apprehension of an Attack — The Brigade did not march in Consequence of this Report; They had received their Orders before. As soon as the Movement of Col Smith was known, Expresses were forwarded into the Country; Mr Hancock & Mr Adams who were at Concord (where the Congress had been sitting) decamped in the Night, & went on towards Philadelphia to sit in the General Congress — At Lexington an Advanced Party of Light Infantry found a Body of Men (as they are termed there Minute Men) in Arms — What happened between them is not fully ascertained Each Side is ready to swear the other fired first: I have conversed with several who were there, & believe that the People fired first: However that be, eight Lexington People were killed, & some of the Troops wounded. This Body having dispersed, the Troops proceeded to Concord, where they destroyed some Flour, Gun Carriages &c — By this Time, the Country round being universally alarmed, Men in Arms were pouring in from all Quarters, & a Skirmishing began: When the Troops had finished what they went for, they began to retire homewards; but the Country People did not choose they should proceed quietly; From Houses & Barns, from behind Stone Walls Hedges & Ditches, they kept firing at the Troops, & harrassed them much — On their Way home, when they met the Brigade, their Ammunition was almost wholly spent & had it not been for that Support they would probably have been almost entirely cut off — The whole Body then retired regularly to Charlestown; but were harrassed in their March by fresh Bodies of Men — The Light Infantry & Grenadiers you will observe had been up all Night, & had been fighting all Day; the Brigade had had a long March through Roxbury, & no Refreshment for any of them — Taking the whole together, it was the most Fatiguing Day's Work that I ever heard of — This prevented the Troops from having the Advantage of Flanking Parties, for they were so fatigued they could not exert themselves — They reached Charlestown Neck about Sun Set; I saw the Firing there from Bacon Hill very

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plainly — There were between 60 & 70 of the Troops killd & missing; &
a larger Number wounded; Many of their Wounds were slight, owing to
the People's Firing from a very great Distance — Lieu[t] Hull of the 43[d] & Knights
of the 4[th] wounded, are since dead: Hawkshaw of the 5[th] badly wounded but like
to recover: Col Barnard & Col. Smith slightly wounded — A List of the Killd
& wounded on the other Side has been published in a Salem Paper, amounting to abou
41 of the former & 15 the latter But this is undoubtedly erroneous; It is very
certain that the Numbers were greater, but difficult to ascertain them.

The Country People call this a Victory, & the Retreat of the Troops a precipitate Flight: They don't consider that when the Troops had effected what they
went for, they only had to come home again: that this was their Intention, &
that they did not do it because they were forced into it, appears from this, that they
were not prepared either with Provision, Ammunition or Tents for staying one
Night, & they had only two Field Pieces with them. Whichever Side has
the Advantage in Point of Numbers lost, it was a most unhappy Affair in its
but much more so in its Consequences. The Country People arriving from
all Parts, made a large Body; they surrounded this Town almost intirely, distri-
buting their Men in Medford, Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester &c — On Sunday
all Communication with the Country was stopp'd — No Body since can leave
the Town by Land or Water without Leave of the General or Admiral; & no
one can come in by Land without a Pass from General Ward, the Agreement
was made in a few Days by General Gage with the Inhabitants of the Town that
they should deliver up their Arms & then should be suffered to go out. Accord-
ingly the Arms have been delivered (mine with the Rest) & many of the People
have left the Town; but it is a slow Business. Many Difficulties have arisen
about it, which have retarded the giving of Passes to them — They say the General
promised they should carry their Effects, & therefore want to take their Goods &
The General it seems if he did use that Word, meant only Furniture & li

does not allow Merchandize to go out. The Passes have been stopped several Times too on this Acco[t]. 'Tis said if the Whigs go out, the Tories ought to be suffered to come in, & the General suspected or was informed they were prevented — Your Good old Friend & Neighbour J Chace is at Roxbury; Several Passes have been seen here signed by him as Major Brigade.

You may well suppose from this Situation we have been in a constant Alarm; Many have been in Expectation that the Provincials would attack the Town, & have therefore been in great Consternation — The General has been strengthening his Fortifications & making New Ones: A Breast Work is thrown up across the Neck; another by Hewes's Works in Pleasant Street; another on Fox Hill, Beacon & Fort & Copse Hill. We are in Daily Expectation of 6 or 7000 Troops from England — What will be done when they come God only knows! The present Confusion is like to scatter us over the Face of the Earth. My Mother, Mr. Townsend, Mr Hubbard's Children, Mr. John Amory's Children & are gone to Norwich; Mr Q & his Family are gone to Passatuckett; Your particular Connections stand fast in Town; likewise D H & Wife & Betsey & Charles. I am going to London with Cap Callahan & expect to have for Fellow Passengers Mr J Green & Wife of School Street; Mr J Barrell & Lady, Mr Jn° Amory & Lady, Mr Callahan, Mr Balch, Mr S Quincey, D Sears &c — As I have long entertained Thoughts of making this Voyage, as it will be impossible to do any Business here, & as I may [illegible] to do in England, I doubt not you will approve of my Intention: If you can find an Opportunity, I shall be much obliged to you to write me while there, to inform me how you go on &c — I doubt not your Friends will by this Conveyance advise you not to come home; I hope you will not think me wholly governed by interested Motives if I heartily join in the Advice. You can do Nothing in the Way of Business here; You will be in the Midst of the Confusion & Horrors of a Civil War, & be obliged perhaps to live as we now do on Salt Provisions.

My best Wishes attend you — Believe me to be with Esteem Your very affectionate Friend

D Greene

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